

# INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Turkmen SSR)

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SUBJECT    Supplementary Report on the City of Chardzhou

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

25X1A2g 1. Railroad Bridge on the Amu-Darya River: This bridge, No. 3 on the sketch map of the city of Chardzhou attached to [REDACTED], was constructed before the Revolution. It is important because it links the Turkmen SSR with the neighboring republics.

2. Travel is freely permitted by railroad between Chardzhou and Tashkent. However, when a train passes over this bridge, the doors and windows of the coaches are closed to prevent the passengers from seeing the area through which the train passes.

25X1A2g 3. New Railroad Line from Chardzhou to Kungrad: This railroad line, No. 4 on the sketch map of Chardzhou in [REDACTED], should be completed by 1950. The radio station of Chardzhou frequently announced during 1948 that the roadbed had been completed, and that all that remained to be done was to lay the track from Deinau to Kungrad. It was wrongly stated in [REDACTED] that a schedule has been established for trains between Chardzhou and Deinau. Only freight trains move over this line, carrying various materials for the construction of the line.

4. This railroad line will be important for the transportation of various products and materials between Chardzhou and Kungrad. At present, trucks and river boats carry gasoline, petroleum, oil (sic; perhaps fish oil or olive oil), and fuel oil from Kungrad to Chardzhou. From Chardzhou to Kungrad they carry cotton, rice, fish, etc. The fuel oil is obtained from the oil wells of the towns of Vyshka and Nebit-Dag in the region of Krasnovodsk.

5. The new railroad line is also important from a military standpoint because it provides a link between the Caspian Sea and the Aral Sea.

25X1A2g 6. Chardzhou Airfield: Informants give the following explanation of installations which appear on the sketch map of Chardzhou Airfield in

[illegible]

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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

- 2 -

- No. 1 is the unpaved road which starts at street No. 59 on the sketch map of Chardzhou in SO-22734 and leads to the airfield.
- No. 2 is the entrance to the airfield, which is closed with an iron gate about 3.5-4 meters wide and about 3 meters high. Only automobiles pass through this entrance.
- No. 3 is a brick wall 0.50 meters thick and about 3 meters high.
- No. 4 is a small one-story brick building used as a control room. Night and day there is a sentry belonging to the air force who checks all trucks and cars entering or leaving. There is a telephone inside this control room.
- No. 5 is a one-story brick building measuring about 10 by 6 meters. It is used as a storeroom for incoming or outgoing freight and materials. This building has two entrances, one outside the airfield enclosure and the other inside it.
- No. 6 is a two-story brick building measuring about 20 by 15 meters. On the first floor there is a waiting room, bar, and ticket office. On the second floor there are the offices of the airfield administration.
- No. 7 is the wind indicator.
- No. 8 is a small garden measuring about 50 by 25 meters.
- No. 9 is a one-story brick building measuring about 100 by 30 meters. It is located outside the airfield at a distance of about 100-150 meters from the airfield entrance. In the center of the building there is a large kitchen, and on either side of it are two large rooms. The kitchen is operated now for civilians only, but during the war it was operated for soldiers. During the war, the rooms were used as a center for soldiers passing through the city. At present, they are entirely empty.
- No. 10 is a one-story brick building measuring 30 by 20 meters. It is used as a shop for the repair of airplanes.
- No. 11 is a two-story brick building measuring about 50 by 20 meters. On the first floor are the offices of the airfield personnel. Their living quarters are on the second floor.
- No. 12 is a building similar to No. 11 above. It is used as living quarters for the workmen and personnel of the airfield.
- No. 13 is a place for parking 10-12 two-motor passenger planes of Douglas type.
- No. 14 is a place where several small two-seater passenger planes park.
- No. 15 is a place where two-engine and four-engine military planes park.
- No. 16 is a horseshoe shaped runway, 800-1000 meters long and about 100 meters wide. The curved end is 300-400 meters long and about 100 meters wide. This landing strip is surfaced with gravel and stones. The rest of the airfield is covered with short grass. Planes land from south to north. Takeoffs are made from north to south.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

- 3 -

- 25X1A2g 7. Tank School: This is an army school for training in tanks. It is No. 25 on the sketch map of Chardzhou in [REDACTED]

8. The tanks which were used were made solely for training purposes; they had very thin armor plate and were similar to German tanks. There were about fifty large and small tanks at the school. The large tanks are called simply "tank" in Russian and the small ones are called "tanketkas". The tanks used in training were all armed. Each one was equipped with a cannon. Informants saw no armored cars.

9. During the war, students attending this school were soldiers, who were commissioned officers after they finished their course of study. They were then sent to the tank factories in Siberia, where they received their tanks and proceeded to the front.

10. At present, the soldiers trained in this school are still commissioned as officers upon completion of the course. They are then sent to the various units to serve the remaining part of their term of enlistment. At the end of the term, they may either resign from the army or apply for a regular commission.

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11. The students who are trained in this school go through maneuvers with the tanks two or three times a week. The maneuvers take place outside the city in places which are uninhabited and fairly level. When the tanks leave the school, they go down the streets numbered 56, 49, and 59 on the sketch map of the city of Chardzhou attached to [REDACTED] to a training field located 4-5 kilometers from the west edge of the city.

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12. The barracks of the city are located a little west of street No. 66 on the sketch map of the city of Chardzhou in [REDACTED] and a distance of about 500 meters from street No. 51. They consist of four or five one-story brick buildings measuring approximately 50 by 30 meters each. Five or six thousand infantrymen are housed in these barracks. The barracks include an area of about 500 by 200 square meters where many military trucks are scattered.

13. Border Forces near the Border of Iran: The headquarters of the border troops assigned to protect the Soviet borders with Iran is located in Ashkhabad. The deputy commander was a Soviet lieutenant colonel.

14. The headquarters of the sector commands of the borders are located in the towns of Dushak, Kaakhka, and Artik, where there are railroad stations.

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